

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for generating an alert in a video surveillance unit, the system comprising:

access means for accessing sequences of digital images;

pattern recognition means for recognizing an entity in at least one digital image from the sequences of digital images;

rule application means for applying rules relating to entities potentially appearing in the at least one digital image, the rules pertaining to at least one entity; and

means for generating the alert responsive to the at least one digital image satisfying one or more of the rules,

wherein the rules include a rule where, when the pattern recognition means recognizes a first entity in the at least one digital image, a search is initiated to look for a second entity in other digital images.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the rules include a rule specifying the generation of the alert when the entity in the at least one digital image is recognized by the pattern recognition means as corresponding to a tracked entity.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 1~~ A system for generating an alert in a video surveillance unit, the system comprising:

access means for accessing sequences of digital images;

pattern recognition means for recognizing an entity in at least one digital image from the sequences of digital images;

rule application means for applying rules relating to entities potentially appearing in the at least one digital image, the rules pertaining to at least one entity; and

means for generating the alert responsive to the at least one digital image satisfying one or more of the rules,

wherein the rules include a rule specifying the generation of the alert when two entities in a first digital image are recognized by the pattern recognition means as being entities to be tracked, and only one of those entities is recognized as being in a subsequent second digital image.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the rules include a rule specifying the generation of the alert when an entity is recognized by the pattern recognition means as being in the at least one digital image corresponding to an area in which the entity is not supposed to be.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 1~~ A system for generating an alert in a video surveillance unit, the system comprising:

access means for accessing sequences of digital images;

pattern recognition means for recognizing an entity in at least one digital image from the sequences of digital images;

rule application means for applying rules relating to entities potentially appearing in the at least one digital image, the rules pertaining to at least one entity; and

means for generating the alert responsive to the at least one digital image satisfying one or more of the rules,

wherein the rules include a rule specifying the generation of the alert when a first entity is recognized by the pattern recognition means as being in a first digital image, and the first entity and a second entity are recognized by the pattern recognition means as being in a subsequent second digital image.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~6~~1 wherein the rule further specifies the generation of the alert if the second entity is recognized by the pattern recognition means as being within at least one of the other digital images.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 1,~~ A system for generating an alert in a video surveillance unit, the system comprising:

access means for accessing sequences of digital images;

pattern recognition means for recognizing an entity in at least one digital image from the sequences of digital images;

rule application means for applying rules relating to entities potentially appearing in the at least one digital image, the rules pertaining to at least one entity; and

means for generating the alert responsive to the at least one digital image satisfying one or more of the rules,

wherein the rules include a rule where the generation of the alert is specified when a first condition is satisfied at a first time, and a second condition is satisfied at a second time different from the first time.

9. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a video camera that produces a stream of video data;

a computer system including a storage device coupled to the video camera and which inputs the stream of video data;

a list of known entities, each of the known entities having a recognizable image associated therewith;

a pattern recognition unit associated with the computer system for comparing a plurality of the recognizable images with the stream of video data to determine matches between the recognizable images and images within the stream of video data, and providing an alert associated with one of the recognizable images when a particular one of the images within the stream of video data matches the one of the recognizable images, such that a different alert is provided for each recognizable image[.]; and

a rules engine associated with the computer system, the rules engine implementing a plurality of rules in each alert.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the list of known entities includes workers.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the alert is based on at least one worker being in an authorized location.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the alert is based on at least one worker appearing in an unauthorized location.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the list of known entities includes target individuals intended to be excluded from designated locations.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the list of known entities includes at least one entity associated with a plurality of recognizable images.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the rules engine implements a rule where the generation of the alert is specified when a first condition is satisfied at a first time, and a second condition is satisfied at a second time different from the first time.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the rules engine implements a rule when the pattern recognition unit recognizes a first entity in the at least one image within the stream of video data to search for a second entity in other images within the stream of video data.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the rule further specifies the generation of the alert if the second entity is recognized by the pattern recognition unit as being within at least one of the other images within the stream of video data.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the rules engine implements a rule specifying the generation of the alert when a first entity is recognized by the pattern recognition unit as being in a first digital image within the stream of video data, and the first entity and a second entity are recognized by the pattern recognition unit as being in a subsequent digital image within the stream of video data.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the rules engine implements a rule specifying the generation of the alert when two entities in a first digital image within the stream of video data are recognized by the pattern recognition unit as being entities to be tracked, and only one of those entities is recognized as being in a subsequent digital image within the stream of video data.